**PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT AND IN-TEXT REFERENCING**

When making a claim in academic writing you must support your argument with reliable evidence.

**For example:**

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| --- |
| Children may not behave or learn as we hope because the classroom may not be fulfilling their needs. Maslow (1970) suggests that human beings have a hierarchy of needs and higher needs will not be attended to if those lower down are not fulfilled. Beck contradicts this suggestion by saying that “there is little evidence for this assertion” (Beck, 1990), and he asks for proof that such a hierarchy exists. However, it seems vital to identifying models of motivation that it is possible for the individual needs of children and fulfilment of their needs to vary, and that it may be the non-fulfilment of lower order needs, such as hunger and feelings of safety that causes obstacles to learning (Williams, 1996). Therefore, children may be having difficulties with learning in school because their basic needs are not being met at home or in the classroom.  |

Consider how this paragraph is structured.

Can you separate it into 3 main areas?

 Section 1:

 Section 2:

 Section 3:

What is the purpose of each section?

 Section 1:

 Section 2:

 Section 3:

How do the three authors (Maslow, Beck and Williams) introduce or support ideas and conclude the paragraph?

Look at the position of each reference:

First reference:

Second reference:

Third reference:

**Reporting Verbs in academic writing**

When you are using direct referencing, the reporting verb that is chosen can indicate the opinion of the author; for example:

Maslow (1970) **suggests**…..which is neutral.

Beck (1990) **contradicts**………which indicates that the author (you) is in agreement with Maslow.

Williams (1996) **argues for**……….this is less neutral and reflects that he has some opinions about the issue

Therefore, always try to use an appropriate reporting verb.

**Using the author’s own words and quoting directly**

You may use direct quotes in your writing to support your argument, however, try to avoid using quotes that are longer than three lines and try to avoid using more than 2 quotes, especially if your assignment is less than 3,000 words. It is better to paraphrase by using your own words to understand what is important about the author’s ideas or opinions; by paraphrasing you can gain more marks.

When quoting directly always include the author’s name/date of the resource, for instance book or journal and the page number (these may differ depending on what type of referencing you are using (APA/ Harvard).

**For example**: However, as Brown states ‘there are many different components of the paragraph development model’ (Brown, 2002, p.5).

If the direct quote is more than three lines, **for example:**

According to Smith:

Paragraph development is more than just a few sentences that occupy the same space in a paper: it is an organic process that makes intricate links between various ideas. These links, ultimately, create one single idea that runs throughout the entire paper (Smith, 2001, p28).

Indent left only

Use the correct line spacing (e.g. APA 6th asks for double line spacing) and when the text is indented there is no need for quotation marks or italics, or refer to your specific referencing guide.

**Referring to websites in your writing**

Websites are often difficult to distinguish between reliable sources, as anyone can post on the internet. Therefore, make sure you understand what a reliable source is, for example you would not quote from a tabloid newspaper on the fight against AIDS. You would find a more reliable academic source such as a medical journal or NHS website. Although Wikipedia is a good starting point in providing a quick overview of the topics, it would not be appropriate to reference it in academic writing. Try and use websites that your tutor/librarian may suggest, such as Google Scholar, Athens and Discovery, which can both be found on the HE library website.